

Senior High School

English for Academic and Professional Purposes

**Quarter 2 - Week 1:
Writing the Position Paper**

Lesson

1

WHAT IS A POSITION PAPER?



What is It

Key Points

A position paper is an essay that expresses a position on an issue. It gives arguments that support the opinion of the writer based on the facts collected. Are you ready to express your opinion? How to organize your position paper? Follow these easy steps to develop your position paper. This outline helps you organize your paper as easy as 123.

Introduction

In this part you must introduce the topic, and then provide history or background of the issue. You may also describe the issue on-hand so do your research.

Body

You must state the opposing argument by briefly describing them. You may also include details that support the opposing claim. Then, after writing the counter argument, now write your argument and give your point of view. Provide evidence that support your claim. Now you state your second argument followed by your third argument. Make sure to provide details that support the argument given.

Conclusion

Now, you can restate both sides of the argument, summarize the three arguments made in your essay. Lastly, provide a call for action.

Source:

<http://www.sfu.ca/cmns/130d1/WritingaPositionPaper.html>

Orton Taylor

Imagine what it was like in 1973, when the first cell phone was invented. Back then it was a novelty and a luxury to have a futuristic technological device that could keep you connected to the rest of the world 24 hours a day. In that time, one would never believe that in just a few decades, the world would be overrun by technological devices such as cell phones. Today, technology is an integral, commonplace part of everyone's lives, however technology doesn't just include cell phones, it encompasses computers, the internet, videogames, television, movies, and practically anything with a screen. Many people can't live without these forms of technology, and many people praise their ability to make our lives easier. However, they are doing more harm than good, especially on youth. Technology is negatively affecting America's youth because it is destroying social skills and causing a dependency on constant stimulation.

The first reason technology negatively impacts youth is because it is destroying social skills. Many people believe that it has the reverse effect, and that it enables people to always keep in contact with their friends and family through texting or social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter. However, this interaction is very impersonal and the result of this is that children are not developing crucial social skills. Hillary Stout of *The New York Times* reported that “Americans between the ages of 8 and 18 spend on average 7 1/2 hours a day using some sort of electronic device” (Stout, 2010, p. 1). It is shocking to think that that is nearly one third of an entire day. In these hours and hours young people spend on various modes of technology, they are sacrificing face to face contact and verbal conversations in the real world. Dr. Ortega, a child psychologist at New York’s Child Mind Institute, sums up why this is such a problem. Ortega reports that the overuse of technology is causing children to lose their ability to read body language and facial cues, resulting in an inability to keep up casual conversations or engage in the art of small talk (Bindley, 2011, p. 2). Because kids can check their phone for new texts or play a mindless game as a strategy to avoid making eye contact with or talking to the people around them, they are literally losing the ability to converse with people in the real world. No amount of good that comes from technology can make the fact that our children are losing their

social skills acceptable.

The second reason technology negatively impacts youth is because it causes a dependency on constant stimulation. This is especially alarming when it comes to young children. At this young age, these children's minds are still developing. They are learning how to entertain themselves, how to problem solve, and how to be patient and wait for things. How can children develop these skills when their parents are constantly stimulating them with TV shows, movies and cell phone games? Many people believe that these forms of technology are a valuable teaching tool; however, they are teaching young people more bad habits than good. The worst habit of all is a dependency on constant stimulation. This dependency is caused by an actual physiological process that happens when children use electronics, and Dr. Sigman, a leading child psychologist, explains why. He explains that dopamine, a chemical in the brain that makes us feel reward, is released when children view electronic devices, and then goes on to say that "this dopamine being produced every single day for many years, through for example playing computer games, may change the reward circuitry in a child's brain and make them more dependent on-screen media" (Kelly, 2012, p. 2). What does this dependency mean for the future of these children? It means that they are desensitized to dopamine from the constant supply of it through screens and technology, which causes an inability to focus on something like a book or a math problem that doesn't give them that super-stimulating effect. It is frightening to see how future generations will be affected by this over-stimulation problem.

People will always argue that technology offers so many benefits in their day to day lives. However, it is clear that it is more detrimental than most people realize. Technology is destroying children's social skills and causing a dependency on constant stimulation. Think about the future of America's children. What good is having a smart phone with endless knowledge at their fingertips when they can't get a job due to an inability to keep up casual conversation in an interview? What favors are parents doing for their children by shoving a television in front of them the second they get a little bored instead of interacting with them and helping them develop valuable skills? The answer to both questions is nothing. It does no good and no favors to overuse technology in the way that Americans are currently overusing it.

Just as the times are very different 40 years ago when the first cell phone came out to now, imagine what the next 40 years will bring when it comes to technology's role in young people and society in general. In order to avoid the frightening ramifications as discussed throughout this paper, changes must be made in our youth and in the way this country raises their children.

Source: https://taylorortoneportfolio.weebly.com/position-paper--the-effects-of-technology-on-youth.html?fbclid=IwAR2r0uWPbyiptDbeBxU1aBUwF9wHu3t2EqjLDX1HlyvXsJx_mOvQG2VFPBM

Lesson**2****DEFENDING A STAND ON AN ISSUE
AND WRITING A POSITION PAPER*****What is It*****LET'S CLAIM IT!**

The table below shows example of issues and its possible claims/stand or position.

ISSUES	CLAIM/STAND/POSITION
SOCIAL MEDIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Social media gives negative effect on students' academic performance.- Social media is helpful to students.
LEGALIZATION OF DIVORCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Divorce should not be legalized in the Philippines- Divorce will help unhappy couples to give themselves chance to love again.
BULLYING	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Bullying affect students' behaviour in school.- Bullying will not affect students' behaviour in school.
SMOKING	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Smoking should be banned in public places- Smoking is a choice and people should have freedom to do whatever makes them happy.
HOMEWORK	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Homework should be mandatory to students.- Homework gives students less time for recreation and family time.

TAKE NOTE!

To be able to defend your own stand on an issue, you have to take note of the following:

- ✓ Clearly identify the issue that you believe is affecting you and your community. You can have 2 or more issues.
- ✓ From the issues that you identified, take on a side that you can defend.
- ✓ Given the issues that you chose, identify other concepts or ideas that you can associate with the issues.
- ✓ Formulate statements that will express your stand towards the issues. These statements may convey the message that the issues are having negative effects on people and the community.
- ✓ Gather factual evidences to support your arguments regarding the issue. This evidence may be taken from official statement of the government agencies, political leaders and academic authorities.
- ✓ Make sure that your statements are strong enough to convince or persuade your readers into action to address the issue.